Message Text

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TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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UNCLAS KHARTOUM 1686

USIAC

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION REPORTING

REF: USIA CA 654, MARCH 31, 1972

FOR: IOR/M, IBS, IPS AND INE

VOA RHODES ARABIC SERVICE

1. U.S. VETO TOPS ALL MEDIA REACTION. AL-AYAM'S MAIN FRONT PAGE HEADLINES: "AMERICA USES VETO ... REJECTION OF DECISION ON M.E. ISSUE SUBMITTED BY NON-COMMITTED NATIONS ... EXPECTATION OF WORLD-WIDE REACTION AGAINST AMERICAN OBSTINATE POSITION." AL-AYAM AND RADIO OMDURMAN REPORTED, "U.S. USED VETO IN SECCOUNCIL YESTERDAY AGAINST DRAFT DECISION CONCERNING M.E. PROBLEM, SUBMITTED BY EIGHT MEMBERS OF NON-COMMITTED NATIONS IN SECCOUNCIL." AL-AYAM ADDED, "IT IS EXPECTED THAT U.S. OBSTINATE ATTITUDE WILL MAKE WIDE REACTION, NOT ONLY IN M.E., BUT IN NON-COMMITTED BLOC AND AFRICAN BLOC, WHICH RECENTLY DETERMINED ITS CLEAR ATTITUDE."

- 2. AL-AYAM FRONT PAGE SUB-HEAD: "NIXON ENTERS CRITICAL STAGE IN WATERGATE SCANDAL BY REFUSING MAGISTERIAL ORDER."
- 3. IN ITS "POLITICAL DIARY", AL-AYAM REFERRED TO SHAH OF IRAN VISIT TO U.S. AND SAID, "NIXON WELCOMED SHAH UNCLASSIFIED

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AND ESCRIBED HIM AS FIRST CLASS CHIEF OF STATE."

COLOMNIST EL-SIR HASSAN FADL COMMENTED, "PETROL IS PLAYING MAJOR ROLE IN U.S. AND BRITISH SUPPORT OF SHAH, WHICH REPRESENTS U.S. AGREEMENT TO SUPPLY IRAN WITH ALL KINDS OF WEAPONS, EXCEPT NUCLEAR. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE AMERICAN WILL PUT IRAN IN PLACE OF ITS FIRST ALLY IN AREA, ISRAEL, IF ARAB PETROL USED IN BATTLE AGAINST ISRAEL." THOMPSON

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